In the Matter of the Search of

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

(Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address)  The Target META Account,  described in Attachment A	Case No. MJ23-552	
APPLICATION FOR A	SEARCH WARRANT	
I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the for property to be searched and give its location):  See Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference	r the government, request a search warrant and state under llowing person or property (identify the person or describe the	
located in the Northern District of	California , there is now concealed (identify the	
The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c)  evidence of a crime;  contraband, fruits of crime, or other items ill  property designed for use, intended for use,  a person to be arrested or a person who is un	egally possessed; and or used in committing a crime;	
The search is related to a violation of:		
Code Section 21 U.S.C. 841(a)(1), 846 18 USC 1956  Drug Trafficking, Constitution of Money Laundering	Offense Description piracy	
The application is based on these facts:  See Affidavit of DEA Special Agent Jacob Molinar,	continued on the attached sheet.	
Delayed notice of 90 days (give exact ending under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is		
Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1, this warrant is presented:	Applicant's signature  Jacob B. Molinar, Special Agent (DEA)  Printed name and title	
The foregoing affidavit was sworn to before me and signed in my presence, or  The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the foregoing affidavit by telephone.		
Date: 11/15/2023	Judge's signature	
City and state: Seattle, Washington	S. Kate Vaughan, United States Magistrate Judge  Printed name and title	

### AFFIDAVIT OF JACOB MOLINAR

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I, JACOB MOLINAR, a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), having been duly sworn, state as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. I am employed as a Special Agent with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and have been so employed since March of 2021. Accordingly, I am an investigative or law enforcement officer within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18, United States Code. I am currently assigned to the Seattle Field Division. In this capacity, I investigate violations of the Controlled Substances Act, Title 21, United States Code, Section 801 et seq., and related offenses. I have received specialized training in the enforcement and investigation of the Controlled Substances Act. I have received over 620 hours of training, including, but not limited to, drug identification, drug interdiction, detection, money laundering techniques and schemes, smuggling, and the investigation of individuals and/or organizations involved in the illegal possession, possession for sale, sales, importation, smuggling, cultivation, manufacturing, and illicit trafficking of controlled substances. In my role as a Special Agent, I have been involved in investigations of individuals who have smuggled, received, and distributed controlled substances, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine, as well as the seizure of illegal narcotics and proceeds of the sale of those narcotics. Furthermore, I am familiar with how drug traffickers conduct their business, including, but not limited to, their methods of importing and distributing drugs, their use of communication devices (cellular telephones, cellphone applications, etc.) to facilitate their illegal efforts, their use of social media platforms to facilitate and/or

discuss illegal drug transactions, and their use of numerical codes and code words to conduct their illegal transactions.

- 2. I have familiarized myself with various tactics, tools, methods, trends, paraphernalia, and related articles utilized by various narcotics traffickers in their efforts to import, export, conceal, and distribute controlled substances. I am also familiar with the manner in which drug traffickers use telephones, often cellular telephones, to conduct their unlawful operations, and how they code their conversations to disguise their unlawful activities. I am also fluent in Spanish, as it is my first language, and am familiar with various Spanish terms used in drug conversations. This is an advantage when investigating narcotics traffickers who primarily speak and communicate among each other in Spanish. I continue to refine my knowledge in the Spanish lingo used by drug traffickers based on the region they are from.
- 3. I have participated in the debriefing of defendants, witnesses, and informants, during which time I have discussed with them their methods of drug smuggling, distribution, packaging, trafficking, avoiding law enforcement, and laundering proceeds, among other concerns related to drug trafficking. I have discussed and learned from other law enforcement investigators regarding these matters as well.
- 4. I make this affidavit in support of an application for a search warrant for information associated with Instagram handle "633419\_5.7", and Account Identifier 5314869686 (Target Account) that is stored at premises owned, maintained, controlled, or operated by Meta Platforms, Inc. ("Meta"), an electronic communications service and/or remote computing service provider headquartered at 1601 Willow Road in Menlo Park, California. The information to be searched is described in the following paragraphs and in Attachment A. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a search warrant under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), 2703(b)(1)(A) and 2703(c)(1)(A) to require Meta to disclose to the government copies of the information (including the content of communications) further described in Section I of Attachment B. Upon receipt of the

- 5. The facts set forth in this affidavit are based on my own personal knowledge; knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this investigation, including other experienced narcotics investigators and law enforcement officers; review of documents and records related to this investigation; communications with others who have personal knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein; and information gained through my training and experience. Because this affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of the application for a search warrant, it does not set forth every fact that I or others have learned during this investigation.
- 6. Based on my training and experience and the facts as set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO and other members of the Jay Thrax drug trafficking organization (DTO) have committed, are committing, and will continue to commit violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846 (drug trafficking, conspiracy) and 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (money laundering). There is probable cause to believe that PINA-RAYMUNDO is the user of the **Target Account** and is using his linked Instagram account(s) to commit those crimes. There is also probable cause to search the information described in Attachment A for evidence and instrumentalities of these crimes as further described in Attachment B.

### **JURISDICTION**

7. This Court has jurisdiction to issue the requested warrant because it is "a court of competent jurisdiction" as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2711. 18 U.S.C. §§ 2703(a), (b)(1)(A) & (c)(1)(A). Specifically, the Court is "a district court of the United States . . . that has jurisdiction over the offense being investigated." 18 U.S.C. § 2711(3)(A)(i).

### SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION & SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 8. I participated in the investigation described in this affidavit since December 2022. I obtained the facts set forth in this affidavit through personal participation in the investigation described below, from oral and written reports of other law enforcement officers, from records, documents and other evidence obtained during this investigation, and from confidential sources and sources of information who are associated with, and knowledgeable about, the subjects of this investigation and their confederates. I have obtained and read official reports prepared by various law enforcement officers participating in this investigation and in the other related investigations by agencies referenced in this affidavit.
- 9. When this affidavit refers to vehicle ownership, either I or other agents involved in the investigation reviewed the relevant state vehicle records from the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL), or the equivalent agency in other states. Similarly, when this affidavit refers to identification documents, either I or other agents involved in the investigation reviewed the relevant driver's license or similar records maintained by DOL, or the equivalent agencies in other states. When this affidavit refers to the criminal history of a subject, either I or other agents involved in the investigation reviewed the available criminal history from state or federal agencies. When this affidavit refers to telephone subscription records, either I or other agents involved in the investigation reviewed the subscriber records obtained from the telephone company by administrative subpoena or court order, or I obtained the information from other law enforcement officers familiar with this investigation. When this affidavit refers to telephone toll records, either I or other agents involved in the investigation received the

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information from the telephone company pursuant to an administrative subpoena or court
authorized pen registers. When this affidavit refers to beliefs or conclusions of
investigators, these beliefs and conclusions are based on the collective training and
experience of the agents involved in this investigation.

10. Since this affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of securing authorization for search warrants on the above listed social media account, I have not included every fact known concerning this investigation. I have set forth the facts that I believe are necessary for a fair determination of probable cause for the requested search warrants.

### **THE INVESTIGATION**

### December 2022 Investigation of Mohamed MUSE

- 11. The United States, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, is investigating the drug distribution activities of the Jay Thrax DTO and its members, which investigators believe include Hector Jacobo Duran ALDACO, Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO, Francisco PINA RAYMUNDO, Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO, Brian LOPEZ, Jonnatan CISNEROS, Juan David CARMONA TOVAR and any associates known and unknown regarding possible violations of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Distribution of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute); 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 846 (Conspiracy to Distribute, and to Possess with the Intent to Distribute, Controlled Substances); 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Possessing a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Offense).
- 12. In December 2022, a Confidential Source 1<sup>2</sup> (Hereinafter referred to as CS1) provided information to the DEA and FBI investigators regarding an individual,

AFFIDAVIT OF SA JACOB MOLINAR USAO No. 2023R00323 - 5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>CS1 has been a confidential source with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) since fall of 2007. CS1 was a confidential source for the FBI from summer of 2014 to spring of 2015. CS1 was not closed for cause by the FBI, and the FBI re-activated CS1 as a source as of January 2023. CS1 has provided credible and reliable information in the past on other narcotics, firearms, and gang investigations, which has been corroborated by physical surveillance and independent source reporting and led to numerous federal arrests and search warrant executions. CS1 has gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor convictions, all from over six years ago, for criminal trespass, criminal impersonation, drug possession solicitation (providing false information on a prescription),

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known as "A-town" who was later identified as Mohamed MUSE. CS1 confirmed MUSE was "A-town" when investigators showed CS1 a driver's license photo of MUSE. CS1 informed investigators that MUSE was a narcotics dealer and often carried a firearm. CS1 also provided investigators with a telephone number (TT1) for MUSE.

- 13. During the investigation into MUSE, between late December 2022 and early January 2023, agents determined he was associated with two locations, 23420 91st Ave S. Apt 303, Kent, WA 98031 (hereinafter "Premises #1"), and 19802 48th Ave West, Building "O," Apt. 2, Lynwood, WA 98036 (hereinafter "Premises #2"). Based on surveillance, agents believed that MUSE was using both Premises #1 and #2 to further his drug trafficking activities. Investigators also determined that MUSE was associated with a black Dodge Challenger [Temporary Washington State License plate A5084786] (hereinafter "Vehicle #1"). Investigators believed that MUSE conducted multiple handto-hand transactions while in Vehicle #1. On January 30, 2023, The Honorable John L. Weinberg, United States Magistrate Judge, signed Search Warrants for Premises #1, Vehicle #1, and for Mohamed MUSE'S person. On February 1, 2023, The Honorable Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, signed a search warrant for Premises #2.
- 14. On February 2, 2023, Investigators executed warrants on Premises #1 and #2. MUSE was taken into custody during the search of Premises #2. During the search of Premises #2 investigators found approximately 364.2 grams of a white powdery substance, which was later field tested and found positive for cocaine. Investigators also found approximately 293.2 grams of blue pills stamped with M and 30, which were later field tested and found positive for fentanyl. The narcotics were located in the closet of the sole bedroom of the apartment. Investigators also found two loaded firearms in a

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driving with suspended license, and violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. CS1 is a paid informant, is not working off a charge, and is not willing to testify in court in connection with this investigation.

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backpack on the floor of the bedroom. Investigators found a third unloaded firearm in a cupboard in the kitchen. As discussed in detail below, when MUSE spoke with agents, he told agents that the contents of the bedroom belonged to him, specifically taking ownership of the narcotics and firearms recovered.

- 15. A short time before investigators executed the search warrant on Premises #1, at approximately 2:00 a.m., investigators observed a heavy-set Hispanic male, later identified as Brian LOPEZ, exit Premises #1 at the same time a dark sedan drove into the parking lot. LOPEZ and the vehicle appeared to meet in an area outside my view for a short time, then LOPEZ returned to Premises #1 and the sedan departed. At approximately 2:45 a.m., investigators observed the same type of interaction involving LOPEZ with a different vehicle. Investigators then observed someone in Premises #1 looking out the window at the vehicle where investigators were sitting, which was an unmarked unit. Investigators moved the vehicle around the corner and out of sight of Premises #1, then got out on foot and observed the entrance for Premises #1 from cover. Investigators observed LOPEZ and another Hispanic male exit from the stairwell that leads to Premises #1 and walk in the direction of the investigator's unmarked vehicle. Investigators remained hidden and observed the individuals approach the vehicle in such a way as to remain hidden from any potential occupants of the unmarked vehicle, crouch and close alongside the vehicle. Investigators then observed LOPEZ look into the unmarked vehicle, which had no one inside. Investigators heard LOPEZ strike the rear passenger side tire twice and then heard air escaping. Investigators then observed LOPEZ and the other Hispanic male return in the direction of Premises #1. A few minutes later, an investigator observed a dark sedan speeding out of the parking lot.
- 16. After investigators observed the dark sedan exit the parking lot, investigators executed the warrant at Premises #1. Inside Premises #1, investigators found a safe in a bag in the living room. The safe contained approximately 1,194.8 grams of a white powdery substance wrapped in blue tape with "CHU" written in black marker.

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The substance was later field tested and tested positive for cocaine. Also, within the safe were several documents with the name "Mohamed MUSE", including official court documents. Investigators found approximately four ounces of a white powdery substance in a drawer in the bathroom which was later field tested and tested positive for cocaine as well as 326.1 grams of suspected Xanax pills.

- 17. Investigators believe that after LOPEZ and the other unidentified Hispanic male that approached the investigators unmarked vehicle, they re-entered Premises #1 and removed narcotics from Premises #1 before leaving the apartment complex.

  Interview of Mohamad MUSE
- 18. After the execution of both warrants, investigators read MUSE his Miranda rights and MUSE agreed to waive his rights and speak with investigators.<sup>3</sup> During this interview, MUSE stated that the narcotics found in the safe at Premises #1 were his, but nothing outside of the safe. MUSE also stated that the narcotics and firearms at Premises #2 were his.
- 19. MUSE provided information on the source of supply for his narcotics and gave investigators the password to his cellphone (hereinafter "TT1")<sup>4</sup> which had numerous conversations with various individuals relating to narcotics trafficking. MUSE stated that he had lived at Premises #1 starting in the summer of 2022. MUSE stated that he recently moved out of Premises #1 because his roommates, who were his sources of supply, were keeping large amounts of drugs in Premises #1 and selling narcotics directly from Premises #1. MUSE stated that he did not like the risks associated with selling that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> MUSE, who was subsequently charged by complaint, did not receive and was not promised any benefit for providing this information to agents. MUSE was expressly advised by agents that they could not make any promises. Agents believe, however, that MUSE provided the information in hopes of receiving leniency for any charges and sentencing stemming from the arrest. Agents conducted a criminal history check for MUSE, which showed he had three Washington state felony convictions for Manufacturing/Delivering amphetamine/methamphetamine (2017), malicious mischief (2008), and assault in the third degree (2008). MUSE also had three Washington state non-felony convictions for reckless driving and domestic violence violations of no contact orders.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> TT1 was the same number provided by CS1 at the beginning of the investigation.

quantity of narcotics, so he moved to Premises #2. During the interview, MUSE indicated
that he thought that investigators had arrested other individuals and seized narcotics at
Premises #1 and stated that the kilogram of cocaine seized in the safe at Premises #1 was
his, but nothing else in Premises #1. MUSE told investigators that he had seen as many as
300,000 fentanyl pills, several pounds of methamphetamine, and 10 or 12 kilograms of
cocaine at one point in Premises #1. MUSE told investigators that his roommates
received deliveries every week and that the deliveries were made in rental cars and
picked up in California. MUSE also said that he purchased the fentanyl pills for \$0.50 per
pill. MUSE told investigators that he had observed the roommates carrying firearms.
Investigators asked MUSE about the yellow Volkswagen with Utah license plate F562KJ
which was referenced above and observed by investigators being utilized by MUSE and
LOPEZ in the suspected distribution of narcotics. MUSE stated that the vehicle was at
"their" [MUSE'S roommates] father's house being repaired.

- 20. MUSE stated that the individual in charge of Premises #1 was known as "Lil Moggis" but was also known to MUSE as "Brian." MUSE showed investigators a snapchat video on TT1 from his snapchat account taken in the area of South Holgate Street and Airport Way South. Investigators identified this individual as the same individual observed entering and exiting Premises #1 and slashing the tire of the unmarked surveillance vehicle as referenced above. MUSE identified him as "Lil Moggis." Investigators later identified this individual as Brian LOPEZ based on renter documents for Premises #1 and LOPEZ'S driver's license photo. MUSE also showed investigators text message conversations on WhatsApp with a phone number 206-830-8504 (TT2) which was saved in TT1 as "Lil Moggis." MUSE confirmed that this was the number he used to communicate with "Lil Moggis"/"Brian."
- 21. MUSE informed investigators that the individual who was in charge of the entire operation and who brought MUSE into the narcotics operation was known to him only as "Jay Thrax." MUSE said he met "Jay Thrax" in the summer of 2022, moving into

Premise #1 shortly after. Investigators believed that Jay Thrax was an alias and it was not until later that they identified his real name as DURAN ALDACO According to MUSE, Jay Thrax oversaw the entire narcotics operation and told them what to do. MUSE stated that Jay Thrax received the narcotics from a Mexican based source of supply. MUSE showed investigators the Snapchat account "J.thaxio" with a display name of "JThrax" on TT1's Snapchat account.

- 22. The same day investigators executed the search warrants on Premises #1 and #2, 209-875-4167 (A phone number believed to be used by Hector Jacobo DURAN ALDACO, hereinafter referred to as TT4) called MUSE at TT1 twice, once at 3:54 a.m. and again at 4:33 a.m. Both calls occurred after the search warrant team had made entry into the locations and MUSE and TT1 were in law enforcement custody. Immediately following the last call, at 4:34 a.m., TT4 texted MUSE, using TT1: "Yo spot got door kick down nothing was there but your safe call me when u see this" followed by "Nobody was inside." I believe, based on what was recovered during the execution of the search that DURAN ALDACO was referencing MUSE's safe containing narcotics recovered from Premises #2.
- 23. Investigators believe that DURAN ALDACO is the leader of the Jay Thrax DTO and was supplying MUSE with narcotics. Investigators further believe that Premises #1 was a stash house that stored large amounts of different narcotics for the Jay Thrax DTO. Investigators also believe that LOPEZ was the individual in charge of safekeeping Premises #1, and that LOPEZ continues to associate with and assist the Jay Thrax DTO with the trafficking of narcotics, as further described below.
- 24. Following MUSE's conversation with investigators, he was placed under arrest for Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute. On March 1, 2023, MUSE was indicted on two counts of Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Deliver, and one count of Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime in the Western District of Washington.

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- 25. Shortly after the execution of Premises #1, investigators learned that LOPEZ called the apartment management office on a recorded line. In the recording, LOPEZ stated he was not involved with the narcotics that were found in Premises #1, but that he did not want to return to Premises #1. LOPEZ stated, "I'm not somebody that's big. I'm pretty much a nobody."
- 26. On February 10, 2023, investigators observed LOPEZ return and access Premises #1 along with several other individuals. LOPEZ told the property management team that these individuals were family to help him clear Premises #1 of his personal property.

#### Controlled Purchase conducted on June 27, 2023

- 27. On June 27, 2023, SPD conducted a controlled purchase of one pound of methamphetamine and 1,000 rainbow colored fentanyl pills from a suspect later identified as Sigifredo Quiroz ESPINOZA. ESPINOZA met with CS6 at a predetermined location. When ESPINOZA arrived, he did not have the narcotics with him. An individual, later identified as Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO from surveillance photos, driving a black Cadillac Escalade arrived, retrieved a bag from the back seat of the vehicle, and met with ESPINOZA in the parking lot. Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO gave the bag to ESPINOZA, which ESPINOZA later gave to CS6. The bag contained the purchased narcotics, one pound of methamphetamine and 1,000 rainbow colored fentanyl pills.
- 28. SPD detectives followed Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO from the location of the narcotics transactions to Premises #3, believed to be the residence of Brian LOPEZ after the deal. After Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO left Premises #3, investigators followed him to his home at 18225 SE 416th Street, Enumclaw, WA.
- 29. CS6 is known by law enforcement to have been previously involved in the selling of narcotics. CS6 is not being paid in this investigation and CS6 understands that he/she must provide only truthful information to law enforcement investigators, and

further understands that failure to do so, or providing false information, will lead to referral of felony drug charges stemming from a Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Act ("VUCSA") – Delivery and a VUCSA – PWI arrest. CS6 is receiving consideration with respect to the possible referral on those charges in exchange for his/her cooperation with law enforcement in this investigation. To my knowledge, CS6 has never given false information, and the information he/she has provided has been corroborated where possible. CS6 has no prior convictions or arrests. CS6 is not willing to testify in connection with this case.

30. On February 6, 2023, investigators learned that TT4 was intercepted on a California state T-III investigation. Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LACSD) confirmed that on January 10, 2023, TT4 was intercepted 16 times. LACSD confirmed that the content of those calls was consistent with the user of TT4, DURAN ALDACO, arranging to meet Manuel SOLORIO on January 10, 2023. SOLORIO was the target of this California state T-III investigation. The following day, California investigators arrested SOLORIO with his source of supply, and recovered large quantities of narcotics to include several kilograms of fentanyl powder, cocaine, and several dozen pounds of methamphetamine. LACSD believed that the meeting between SOLORIO and DURAN ALDACO was for SOLORIO to supply DURAN ALDACO with narcotics based on the intercepts from the T-III investigation.

#### Arrest of Maruicio Romero MARIA

31. On March 7, 2023, agents with the FBI, DEA, and Seattle Police Department executed federal search warrants for the residence, vehicle, and person of an individual who later became a Cooperating Defendant (hereinafter referred to as CD1).<sup>5</sup>

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Agents conducted a criminal history check for CD1, which showed he has three federal felony convictions for possession of cocaine base in the form of crack cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, and felon in possession of a firearm (2008), numerous federal probation violations with supervised release terminating in or around 2018, six state felonies for unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree (1996, 2003), robbery in the second degree

<sup>5</sup> CD1 who was subsequently charged by complaint, did not receive and was not promised any benefits for providing this

information to agents. CD was expressly advised by agents that they could not make any promises. Agents believe; however, CD1 provided the information in the hopes of receiving leniency for any charges and sentencing stemming from the arrest.

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Investigators located a variety of suspected narcotics that field tested positive for
fentanyl, cocaine (some substances tested positive for a mixture of cocaine and fentanyl
powder), a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a
loaded semi-automatic pistol, two cell phones, and a wallet containing the driver's license
of CD1. Additionally, investigators located empty plastic baggies consistent with
repackaging narcotics for further redistribution, an unloaded assault-style pistol with no
discernable serial number or manufacture markings with several loaded magazines next
to it. Investigators also located U.S. currency in various denominations.

- 32. During an interview with CD1, CD1 stated that CD1 purchased narcotics including cocaine, counterfeit M30 fentanyl-laced pills, and methamphetamine, for distribution from a single supplier, who was later identified as Mauricio Romero MARIA. CD1 stated CD1 would pay for the narcotics at the time of delivery and purchased approximately one pound of methamphetamine, a few ounces of cocaine, and between 2,000 to 3,000 counterfeit M30 fentanyl-laced pills once or twice a week from MARIA. CD1 subsequently provided agents with verbal and written consent to assume his identity and use his cell phone to text with MARIA in order to arrange a narcotics transaction.
- 33. On March 8, 2023, in an undercover capacity, investigators utilized CD1's cellphone to order narcotics from MARIA. Investigators used the same verbiage that CD1 had previously used in ordering narcotics via text from MARIA (investigators believed they ordered 2,000 counterfeit M30 pills and one pound of methamphetamine). MARIA responded and indicated that he could deliver the ordered requested by investigators. Investigators surveilled MARIA from Tukwila to Federal Way, WA, where CD1's residence is located. MARIA was seen driving a black Mercedes Benz sedan. Once MARIA arrived at CD1's residence, investigators arrested MARIA and took him

<sup>(1998),</sup> possession of cocaine (2002, 2007), rendering criminal assistance in the first degree (2003), and close to 20 nonfelony convictions consisting primarily of domestic violence and driving offenses.

1 into custody. Subsequent to the arrest, investigators observed a clear bag containing 2 suspected methamphetamine on the front passenger seat in plain view inside the Mercedes. Agents conducted a probable cause search of the Mercedes and located approximately 10,000 counterfeit M30 suspected fentanyl-laced pills, 1.8 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine, smaller amounts of suspected cocaine and heroin, and \$18,761 in U.S. currency. 6

- 34. During an interview, MARIA provided investigators with the number of one of his sources of supply for narcotics as 323-841-6393 (hereinafter referred to as TT13). MARIA described the source of supply as a Hispanic male in his mid-20's and a little taller than MARIA, which matches the description of Hector Jacobo DURAN ALDACO. MARIA stated that the source of supply brings drugs from California and that MARIA purchases approximately 10,000 fentanyl pills and five pounds of meth at a time from this source. Toll analysis of TT13 showed that TT13 was activated on February 4, 2023, two days after investigators arrested and interviewed MUSE as detailed above. Toll analysis showed that TT13 had 17 shared contacts with TT4 including 253-389-7962 (TT12). Records show that TT12 is subscribed to Enrique PINA-RAYMONDO at 18225 SE 416th St, Enumclaw, WA 98022. Based on this information investigators believe that that TT13 is a replacement phone for TT4 and both were being used by the same individual, DURAN ALDACO.
- 35. During a subsequent interview, MARIA stated he had additional quantities of narcotics stored in his bedroom (6210 S 153rd Street, #5, Tukwila, Washington) and a firearm. MARIA provided verbal and written consent to search his cellphone and his bedroom. The search produced approximately 70,000 counterfeit M30 suspected fentanyllaced pills, 1.3 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine, 2.3 kilograms of suspected cocaine, more than half a pound of suspected heroin, hundreds of suspected counterfeit Xanax pills, one purple and silver handgun bearing serial number BYWK996 on the slide,

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over \$40,000 in U.S. currency, and a second cell phone. The suspected narcotics were not field tested but were sent to the DEA laboratory for analysis.

- 36. Investigators located WhatsApp conversations between MARIA and TT13. The contact's name for TT13 was saved as "Aguas Azulez Perico Nuevo Numero Del Compa." "Aguas" translates from Spanish to English as "water." Based on my training and experience, "water" is common slang term used among drug dealers for methamphetamine. "Azulez" is believed to be "Azules," which translates to "Blues" from Spanish to English. Based on my training and experience, "Blues" is a common slang term used among drug dealers for blue M30 fentanyl pills. "Perico" translates from Spanish to English as "Parakeet." However, I know that "Perico" is a common slang term used by drug dealers for cocaine. The literal translation of the contact's name "Aguas Azulez Perico Nuevo Numero Del Compa" to English is "Waters Blues Parakeet New Number Of The Friend." I believe that MARIA saved this number as the new number of his source of supply for methamphetamine, fentanyl pills, and cocaine. A review of the conversation between MARIA and TT13 indicated that MARIA and the user of TT13 were discussing the price and coordinating the purchase of narcotics.
- 37. Investigators believe that MARIA was being supplied with narcotics by DURAN ALDACO and DURAN ALDACO was using his newest number (at that time), TT13, to communicate with MARIA. Investigators believe that DURAN ALDACO is managing large sales of narcotics to local distributors such as MARIA.
- <u>Information Provided by Confidential Source 2 (CS2)</u>
- 38. On May 11, 2023, investigators interviewed CS2.<sup>6</sup> CS2 provided information about the drug trafficking activities of Francisco PINA-CASTELLANOS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The information provided by CS2 in this investigation is based upon his/her participation in money pickups that he/she performed at the direction of law enforcement on May 29, 2020, and July 23, 2021. CS2 is a paid DEA informant who is also working for immigration benefits. CS2 began working with the DEA in 2013. CS2's criminal history includes misdemeanor convictions for assault (domestic violence) and harassment (domestic violence), from more than 15 years ago, an arrest for DUI from more than 15 years ago, an arrest for illegal entry/false documents from more than 15 years ago -resulting in administrative removal from the United States, and another arrest for

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1	and his three sons, Francisco, Enrique and Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO. CS2 stated that
2	the PINA-RAYMUNDO brothers worked for their father bringing narcotics from
3	California and disturbing them in the greater Seattle area. CS2 also stated that the PINA-
4	CASTELLANOS family had a great deal of bulk cash that they kept somewhere in the
5	Kent, WA area. CS2 shared with investigators how a member of the PINA-
6	CASTELLANOS family had complained to CS2 about spending long hours counting
7	cash. Based on my training and experience, it is common for narcotics traffickers to deal
8	with bulk cash in order to avoid using financial institutions where their activities may be
9	flagged as money laundering.
10	Snapchat Return on Account "J.Thraxio" used by Hector Jacobo DURAN ALDACO
11	39. On May 30, 2023, investigators received a return for a Snapchat account for
12	the username of "j.thraxio." Investigators observed several photos and videos of
13	individuals brandishing firearms and large amounts of cash. One of the individuals in the
14	Snapchat content was identified by investigators as Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO by
15	using his Department of Licensing photo. Investigators were also able to identify
16	different individuals using the snapchat username accounts that were in contact with
17	DURAN ALDACO through a Snapchat group chat or individual direct messages. Some
18	of those individuals include: Enrique, Francisco, and Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO,
19	Brian LOPEZ (the same LOPEZ discussed above), and Raul Duran ALDACO (Hector
20	Jacobo DURAN ALDACO's brother).
21	"Narcocorridos7" Dedicated to Members of the DTO
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24	illegal entry from more than 15 years ago - which also resulted in administrative removal from the United States. CS2's information has been instrumental in the seizure of large amounts of illegal drugs and drug proceeds. CS2's
25	information has led to multiple investigations into large-scale money laundering organizations. To my knowledge, CS2 has not provided false information during this, or in other investigations.
26	<sup>7</sup> A Narcocorrido is a genre of Mexican music that mostly uses a danceable, polka rhythmic base. These songs expand on the life and the exploits of drug traffickers. Given the collective contents of the song, investigators
27	believe that this song can be classified as a Narcocorrido.

- 40. Investigators learned through the course of this investigation that there are two songs<sup>8</sup> which seemingly reference members of the PINA-CASTELLANO family, including Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO whom investigators believe are part of the Jay Thrax DTO. These songs are in the public domain and are accessible through mainstream media outlets such as YouTube and Spotify. Based on my training and experience, it is common for members of DTOs to pay for the services of a band to create and play a song dedicated for themselves or others. The song mentions the nicknames (as discussed of the three brothers, Enrique (Kike), Francisco (Cisco), Damian (Comandante Demon) PINA-RAYMUNDO, and their father, Francisco PINA-CASTELLANOS (Martillo).
- 41. As of September 12, 2023, the **Target Account** (With a skull emoji on each end) follows the official Instagram pages for both band groups who sing the songs. These band group's Instagram profiles are also following the **Target Account** back.
- 42. The first song is titled "Comandante Demon" (Commander Demon). The song is structured in different points of views including Commander Demon's. It mentions "Kike (Enrique) and "Cisco" (Francisco) as the brothers of Commander Demon, presumably Damian. The song's lyrics states that Commander Demon's (Damian) father sent for him and said "You are already old, you are going to learn how to work". Investigators believe that this part of the song refers to Damian being educated in the ways of narcotics trafficking. The song also states that Commander Demon is the son of "Martillo" and that "we are here at 100 following his [Martillo's] footsteps." Francisco PINA-CASTELLANOS was arrested in 2019 by the Renton, WA Police Department for controlled substance distribution. At one point in the song, Commander Demon calls themselves "muleteers." Investigators believe that by describing themselves as muleteers,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Unless stated otherwise the portions of this affidavit that discuss Spanish to English translations were done by me. I am fluent in both Spanish and English and I am familiar with the Spanish nomenclature including with those used in a drug trafficking context. Unless otherwise noted, the translated portions of words, and sentences discussed in this document reflect the closest English translation or its English equivalent based on my knowledge and experience. The nicknames that are discussed in this affidavit are spelled out based on my knowledge and experience and may be different from how their respective users spell them.

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- 43. The statements from this song corresponds with the information investigators have gathered from CS2. According to CS2, the Jay Thrax DTO's members (including the PINA-RAYMUNDO brothers) take turns traveling to California using rental vehicles in order to pick up narcotics from Mexican sources of supply (SOS) that have extensions in California. These DTO members then transport the narcotics into the greater Seattle, Washington area for distribution. The drivers and the occupants of these drug runs act as drug "mules" and the leaders of the Jay Thrax DTO act as the "muleteers" just as the song describes. We know from social media pictures that the leaders of the Jay Thrax DTO like to have and appear to use luxurious cars, wear high end clothes, wear flashy jewelry and have several firearms. We also know from CS2's information that the PINA-RAYMUNDO family has their own horse race team and they are heavily involved in horse racing in the Emerald Downs Casino.
- 44. The second song is titled "Los Tres Hermanos" (The Three Brothers). The song is structured in different points of views including the point of view of the subjects

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45. On June 8, 2023, investigators interviewed Confidential Source 3 ("CS3"). CS3 informed investigators that in late April 2023, a vehicle carrying a load of narcotics destined for Seattle, WA for DURAN was intercepted and narcotics in the vehicle were seized. Based on this information, investigators contacted California Highway Patrol (CHP) and requested reports and evidence pertaining to a seizure of narcotics on April 25, 2023. Per CHP reports, CHP officers pulled over a vehicle for traffic infractions and established reasonable suspicion to conduct a K-9 sniff. The K-9 alerted to the presence of narcotics and CHP conducted a search of the vehicle. CHP located and seized approximately 104 pounds of methamphetamine and 25 pounds of suspected fentanyl laced blue M30 pills. CHP arrested the four occupants of the vehicle, including Jonnatan CISNEROS and Juan David CARMONA TOVAR. Investigators had previously identified CISNEROS as an associate of DURAN, which corroborated the information gave by CS3. During the interview of CS3, CS3 stated that Sebastian Esquivel ROJAS was an associate of DURAN and assisted in the distribution of narcotics in the greater Seattle area.

46. CS3 was a DEA informant who was working for legal considerations in an open federal drug trafficking conspiracy case. CS3 was not financially compensated for their assistance to date. CS3 began working with the DEA in 2022. In exchange for acting as a confidential source, CS3 had not been adjudicated on the pending case. To my knowledge the information CS3 has provided to me in the past has proved to be true and reliable. CS3's assistance has led to the identification of narcotics trafficking methods, and corroborated law enforcement intelligence on drug trafficking activities warrant. Illegal drugs and US currency was located and recovered in these instances. CS3 has been arrested for DUI and distribution of controlled substances. CS3 is also familiar with controlled substances through association with persons who use/sell controlled

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27 || Investigators reviewed another photo taken from the inside of what appears to be the

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- substances. CS3 was told that providing false or misleading information would result in the termination of our agreement.
- 47. In August 2023, DEA agents were contacted by a Kent Police Department detective regarding CS3. Officer Nicholas Luntz informed DEA agents that CS3 was under investigation for impersonating a law enforcement officer. Officer Luntz told DEA agents that he made contact with CS3, who informed Officer Luntz that CS3 was working with DEA. During the conversation, CS3 told Officer Luntz that s/he was working "in the field" in California with their "co-workers" and that they were away from their computer. CS3 then asked Officer Luntz if he could run a "warrants check" on a specific individual, CS3's ex-dating partner. When confronted by DEA agents, CS3 admitted to the conduct. Shortly after being provided this information CS3 was terminated as a DEA informant. The information detailed in this affidavit was provided by CS3 prior to his contact with the Kent Police Department, and I believe that this information is still reliable because it was verified through other sources such as database checks, toll records, and information received through Court orders.

### Social Media Photos From Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO's Social Media

- 48. Throughout the course of this investigation, investigators have observed social media photos from the **Target Account**. The most recent media investigators reviewed from the **Target Account** was on November 8, 2023.
- 49. The photos from this account include a picture taken from the point of view of the driver, presumably Damian, who is behind the wheel of a Toyota on a road with a location tag as "California." Another photo was taken from the point of view of an individual, presumably Damian, sitting in the driver seat inside of a Mercedes vehicle. The driver can be seen with several thousands (mostly \$100 bills) of dollars being held by the drivers left hand and spread across the thighs of the driver. It appeared as if the currency was placed in a manner as to fully display the entire amount of currency.

50. On October 10, 2023, investigators reviewed a photo posted on the **Target Account** that same day. The picture was taken from the point of view of a driver of a vehicle. The driver has his left hand on the wheel and is presumably using his right hand

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1	to take a picture of the center counsel area. There are several bundles of U.S. cash
2	currency wrapped in reddish rubber bands. The bands are stacked on top of each other
3	with a one-hundred-dollar bill on top. The caption of the photo says "HOY NOMAS",
4	which translates to: "Only today". In the rearview mirror, there is a small toy race jockey
5	riding a horse dangling next to a rosary. As discussed below, Damian and his family are
6	involved in race horsing and based on the findings of the investigation, him and his
7	family are Catholics. There is also a screen on the dashboard that appears to show the
8	greater Seattle area. Investigators know that individuals involved in the narcotics
9	trafficking business will sometimes show off their exploits, clothing, firearms, and in this
10	case, currency on social media. Investigators believe that Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO
11	posted this photo on his Instagram story series as a way of showing off drug trafficking
12	proceeds. This is one of the latest of a series of photos investigators believe Damian
13	PINA-RAYMUNDO has posted in his Instagram account.

- 51. On November 11, 2023, investigators reviewed a video posted on the **Target Account** that same day. The video displayed one semi-automatic style rifle, four handguns (two of them are 1911 style handguns), ammunition, pistol magazines, and a key fob, on a white flat service. The video had a caption saying "My babies" along with emojis. The key fob strongly resembles a Mercedes logo based on investigator's research online. The 1911 style handguns are referenced in the songs listed above.
- 52. On approximately July 7, 2023, investigators received a return of a 2703(d) request of Damian's Facebook account (Comandante Demon, Facebook ID: 1000094120) and learned the Facebook account has an associated number of 253-398-0204 (hereinafter referred to as Target Telephone 15 or TT15), and an email of damian.pina.39@gmail.com.
- 53. Investigators also reviewed Facebook photos from the Facebook profile of Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO with a profile name of "Comandante Demon." Images show Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO with what appear to be racehorses. There is also an

image of an individual, presumably Damian, walking with a horse. The individual has a black jacket and a black hat that states: "TEAM MARTILLO SEATTLE, WA".

- 54. Investigators also observed an image of a large statue of "La Santa Muerte." The statue is sitting down on a dark seat, holding the earth in her left hand and a Scythe in her right hand. This corresponds with the lyrics of the song discussed above. As the Facebook picture indicates, Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO is associated in some manner with "La Santa Muerte" [the Holy Death]. Investigators also reviewed Facebook photos from the profile of Raul Duran ALDACO (Facebook Profile ID:105165949918771, Profile name of "Raul Duran"), the younger brother of Hector Jacob DURAN ALDACO, aka Jay Thrax. One of the photos shows a group of young men in a party-like scene. Investigators were able to identify Hector Jacobo DURAN ALDACO, Raul Duran ALDACO, Brian LOPEZ, and two of the brothers, Damian and Francisco PINA-RAYMUNDO from the group photo. Francisco PINA-RAYMUNDO is seen wearing a black hat that has "701 El Chaptio" in gold letters. The number 701 refers to the rank Juaquin GUZMAN LOERA (El Chapo), was once given in Forbes list of the riches people. "701" is also common reference to El Chapo in song lyrics. Investigators believe that the individuals in the group photo are all part of the Jay Thrax DTO and are currently working together in order to continue acquiring, transporting, and distributing illegal narcotics to the greater Seattle area.
- Target Account and Damian's Facebook account, investigators believe that there is media content in the Target Account that is related to narcotics trafficking and/or can provide investigators with further evidence regarding the illicit narcotics activities of the Jay Thrax DTO and its members. Investigators sent a preservation letter to Meta for the Target Account on May 19, 2023.

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### Jail Calls from Juan David CARMONA TOVAR

56. Throughout the course of this investigation, investigators have reviewed calls made by CARMONA TOVAR from the Merced County John Latorraca Correctional Facility. CARMONA TOVAR was one of the individuals that was arrested on narcotics charges as discussed above on paragraph 45. Call records show that CARMONA TOVAR made an outbound call on April 27, 2023, to 559-323-9121. An unidentified Spanish speaking male answered the call (hereinafter referred to as UM1). UM1 and CARMONA TOVAR spoke to one another as if they knew each other. At times, UM1 referred to CARMONA TOVAR as "Mi CARMONA" (which, translated<sup>9</sup> from Spanish means: My CARMONA). At one point in the phone call, UM1 asked CARMONA TOVAR if CARMONA TOVAR would like UM1 to pass along "Carlos's" number. CARMONA TOVAR stated that CARMONA TOVAR already had Carlos's phone number. CARMONA TOVAR asked UM1 if UM1 has "Kike's" or "Pelon's" phone number. UM1 told CARMONA TOVAR that UM1 has "Martillo's" number. CARMONA TOVAR replied by saying "No pos pa' que verda?" Which, translated from English to Spanish, means "No, well what for, right?" UM1 then stated that UM1 had two phones for "Martillo." UM1 suggested that CARMONA TOVAR call "Carlos" to get Kike's and Pelon's number.

57. Based on collective information from CS2 and CS3, investigators know that Francisco PINA-RAYMUNDO uses the nicknames "Pelon" and "Cisco," Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO uses the nickname "Kike," Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO uses the nickname "Comandante Demon" (which translates from Spanish to English as

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"Commander Demon"), and their father, Francisco PINA-CASTELLANOS uses the nickname "Martillo" (which translates from Spanish to English as a "Hammer").

- 58. Investigators believe that CARMONA TOVAR was in California picking up a large load of narcotics from California and bringing it back to the greater Seattle, WA area in order to supply the Jay Thrax DTO. By using their nicknames investigators believe that CARMONA TOVAR is a member of the Jay Thrax DTO and is associated with its other members, Francisco PINA-RAYMUNDO, Enrique PINA-RAYMUNDO, and Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO. Investigators believe that statements made during the jail calls indicate a strong association to the PINA-RAYMUNDO family to include Francisco PINA-CASTELLANOS, also known as, Martillo.
- 59. Investigators reviewed another series of calls made on April 28, 2023, by CARMONA TOVAR from the same correctional facility as mentioned above. The number that was dialed from CAMRONA TOVAR's phone line was Target Telephone 15, a suspected previous phone number used by Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO. These were a series of consecutive calls<sup>10</sup> between CARMONA TOVAR's phone line and Target Telephone 15. During one of the phone calls CARMONA TOVAR expresses to Damian the difficulties of being incarcerated. Damian tells CARMONA TOVAR that "we are your family, usted no se augite de nada, you know we got'chu". The Spanish portions translate to: You don't worry about anything." CARMONA TOVAR then tells Damian "¿Dile aquel que no se olvide de uno a la verga, you know?" Which translates to: Tell that guy to not forget about one, to the dick<sup>11</sup>, you know? Damian then responds in Spanish, "I know, bro. What was I going to tell you, and that's for sure, that's for sure,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Some of the conversations described in this affidavit were done in both English and Spanish. I provided the translation and/or the closest English equivalent to what is being said. The written translations may be mixtures of the English and Spanish conversations the individuals said.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Spanish term "A la verga" is used to add emphasis to the phrase it is being used in. In this case it can be understood as: I'm being serious.

that's for sure" CARMONA TOVAR tells Damian in Spanish "Because we are counting on that, you feel me?" Investigators believe that when CARMONA TOVAR asked Damian to relay that message to the unnamed individual, CARMONA TOVAR was referring to Hector Jacobo DURAN ALDACO, the leader of the Jay Thrax DTO. Investigators believe that CARMONA TOVAR wanted DURAN ALDACO to keep CARMONA TOVAR in mind since CARMONA TOVAR and Jonnatan CASTELLANO CISNEROS were incarcerated for transporting narcotics for DURAN ALDACO. Damian then tells CARMONA TOVAR "Everyday I say that, everyday I tell him, you know what I mean?" Damian adds by saying "I will tell him to give you a hand and to bring you out, to the dick, bro because, you know, you already know old man. I wish you were here outside to talk so we can talk a and shit..." Investigators believe that CARMONA TOVAR and Damian deliberately refrain from using any names or identifiers when speaking about this unnamed individual, presumably DURAN ALDACO. They are aware that these jail calls are recorded and are subject to monitoring. 60. Investigators also reviewed another call made to Target Phone 15 on April 28, 2023, by CARMONA TOVAR. A male, presumably Damian, answered, greeted CARMONA TOVAR and said in Spanish "I'll pass you to Cisco". Cisco is the nickname used by Francisco PINA-RAYMUNDO, Damian's brother. CARMONA TOVAR asked the males who he spoke to, presumably Cisco and Damian, to call "Mando" for CAMRONA TOVAR. Cisco explained to CARMONA TOVAR that Mando was hesitant about contacting CARMONA TOVAR. Cisco then quoted what Mando had said in Spanish: "No se pa'que quiere estar hable y hable", you know? "pa'que handa calentando" you know? Shit like that..." This translates in English to: I don't know why he wants to be calling and calling, you know? Why is he heating [things] up, you know? Shit like that. I know from my training and experience that individuals who are involved in a recent crime and are attempting to elude law enforcement detection will use the

phrase "heated" as a word to describe the status of themselves or another individual. The

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term "heated" is used to describe an induvial who has and/or feels they have a high index of suspicion of being detected by law enforcement for a crime they were involved in or associated with. This is also the case among Spanish speaking individuals. Investigators believe that Mando did not want to be contacted by CAMRONA TOVAR from jail because Mando did not want to be associated with the charges CARMONA TOVAR was facing. Later during the call, Cisco can be heard calling Damian before passing the phone to, presumably Damián PINA-RAYMUNDO. CARMONA TOVAR then calls the male on the line "Damian", and the two males, CARMONA TOVAR and Damian, then continue the conversation.

- 61. Investigators also reviewed a jail call made on April 28, 2023, that was made to Target Telephone 15. Damian tells CARMONA TOVAR that Damian posted "Free Sica Free Carma Free the family" This correlates with the photo investigators reviewed as described on paragraph 49.
- 62. Based on the collective phone conversations, investigators believe that the individuals who spoke to CARMONA TOVAR as well as the individuals named during these conversations are members and/or are associated with the Jay Thrax DTO. Target Telephone 15 was the 4<sup>th</sup> phone number CARMONA TOVAR called after being incarcerated. Investigators believe Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO is involved in narcotics trafficking and is associated with the illegal activities that CAMRONA TOVAR was involved in. Investigators believe that there is media content in the **Target Account** that is related to narcotics trafficking and/or can provide investigators with further evidence regarding the illicit narcotics activities of the Jay Thrax DTO and its members, those known and unknown.

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT INSTAGRAM<sup>12</sup>

- 63. Instagram is a service owned by Meta, a United States company and a provider of an electronic communications service as defined by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3127(1) and 2510. Specifically, Instagram is a free-access social networking service, accessible through its website and its mobile application, that allows subscribers to acquire and use Instagram accounts, like the **Target Account** listed in Attachment A, through which users can share messages, multimedia, and other information with other Instagram users and the general public.
- 64. Meta collects basic contact and personal identifying information from users during the Instagram registration process. This information, which can later be changed by the user, may include the user's full name, birth date, gender, contact e-mail addresses, physical address (including city, state, and zip code), telephone numbers, credit card or bank account number, and other personal identifiers. Meta keeps records of changes made to this information.
- 65. Meta also collects and retains information about how each user accesses and uses Instagram. This includes information about the Internet Protocol ("IP") addresses used to create and use an account, unique identifiers and other information about devices and web browsers used to access an account, and session times and durations.
- 66. Each Instagram account is identified by a unique username chosen by the user. Users can change their usernames whenever they choose but no two users can have the same usernames at the same time. Instagram users can create multiple accounts and, if

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The information in this section is based on information published by Meta on its Instagram website, including, but not limited to, the following webpages: "Privacy Policy," <a href="https://privacycenter.instagram.com/policy/">https://privacycenter.instagram.com/policy/</a>; "Information for Law Enforcement," <a href="https://help.instagram.com/494561080557017">https://help.instagram.com/494561080557017</a>; and "Help Center," <a href="https://help.instagram.com/">https://help.instagram.com/</a>.

"added" to the primary account (here, the Target Account), can switch between the associated accounts on a device without having to repeatedly log-in and log-out.

- 67. Instagram users can also connect their Instagram and Facebook accounts to utilize certain cross-platform features, and multiple Instagram accounts can be connected to a single Facebook account. Instagram accounts can also be connected to certain thirdparty websites and mobile apps for similar functionality. For example, an Instagram user can "tweet" an image uploaded to Instagram to a connected Twitter account or post it to a connected Facebook account or transfer an image from Instagram to a connected image printing service. Meta maintains records of changed Instagram usernames, associated Instagram accounts, and previous and current connections with accounts on Meta and third-party websites and mobile apps.
- Instagram users can "follow" other users to receive updates about their posts and to gain access that might otherwise be restricted by privacy settings (for example, users can choose whether their posts are visible to anyone or only to their followers). Users can also "block" other users from viewing their posts and searching for their account, "mute" users to avoid seeing their posts, and "restrict" users to hide certain activity and prescreen their comments. Instagram also allows users to create a "close friends list" for targeting certain communications and activities to a subset of followers.
- 69. Users have several ways to search for friends and associates to follow on Instagram, such as by allowing Meta to access the contact lists on their devices to identify which contacts are Instagram users. Meta retains this contact data unless deleted by the user and periodically syncs with the user's devices to capture changes and additions. Users can similarly allow Meta to search an associated Facebook account for friends who are also Instagram users. Users can also manually search for friends or associates.
- 70. Each Instagram user has a profile page where certain content they create and share ("posts") can be viewed either by the public or only the user's followers,

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depending on privacy settings. Users can customize their profile by adding their name, a photo, a short biography ("Bio"), and a website address.

- 71. One of Instagram's primary features is the ability to create, edit, share, and interact with photos and short videos. Users can upload photos or videos taken with or stored on their devices, to which they can apply filters and other visual effects, add a caption, enter the usernames of other users ("tag"), or add a location. These appear as posts on the user's profile. Users can remove posts from their profiles by deleting or archiving them. Archived posts can be reposted because, unlike deleted posts, they remain on Meta's servers.
- 72. Users can interact with posts by liking them, adding or replying to comments, or sharing them within or outside of Instagram. Users receive notification when they are tagged in a post by its creator or mentioned in a comment (users can "mention" others by adding their username to a comment followed by "@"). An Instagram post created by one user may appear on the profiles or feeds of other users depending on a number of factors, including privacy settings and which users were tagged or mentioned.
- 73. An Instagram "story" is similar to a post but can be viewed by other users for only 24 hours. Stories are automatically saved to the creator's "Stories Archive" and remain on Meta's servers unless manually deleted. The usernames of those who viewed a story are visible to the story's creator until 48 hours after the story was posted.
- 74. Instagram allows users to broadcast live video from their profiles. Viewers can like and add comments to the video while it is live, but the video and any user interactions are removed from Instagram upon completion unless the creator chooses to send the video to IGTV, Instagram's long-form video app.
- 75. Instagram Direct, Instagram's messaging service, allows users to send private messages to select individuals or groups. These messages may include text, photos, videos, posts, videos, profiles, and other information. Participants to a group

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conversation can name the group and send invitations to others to join. Instagram users can send individual or group messages with "disappearing" photos or videos that can only be viewed by recipients once or twice, depending on settings. Senders can't view their disappearing messages after they are sent but do have access to each message's status, which indicates whether it was delivered, opened, or replayed, and if the recipient took a screenshot. Instagram Direct also enables users to video chat with each other directly or in groups.

- 76. Instagram offers services such as Instagram Checkout and Facebook Pay for users to make purchases, donate money, and conduct other financial transactions within the Instagram platform as well as on Facebook and other associated websites and apps. Instagram collects and retains payment information, billing records, and transactional and other information when these services are utilized.
- 77. Instagram has a search function which allows users to search for accounts by username, user activity by location, and user activity by hashtag. Hashtags, which are topical words or phrases preceded by a hash sign (#), can be added to posts to make them more easily searchable and can be "followed" to generate related updates from Instagram. Meta retains records of a user's search history and followed hashtags.
- 78. Meta collects and retains location information relating to the use of an Instagram account, including user-entered location tags and location information used by Meta to personalize and target advertisements.
- 79. Meta uses information it gathers from its platforms and other sources about the demographics, interests, actions, and connections of its users to select and personalize ads, offers, and other sponsored content. Meta maintains related records for Instagram users, including information about their perceived ad topic preferences, interactions with ads, and advertising identifiers. This data can provide insights into a user's identity and activities, and it can also reveal potential sources of additional evidence.

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- 80. In some cases, Instagram users may communicate directly with Meta about issues relating to their accounts, such as technical problems, billing inquiries, or complaints from other users. Social networking providers like Meta typically retain records about such communications, including records of contacts between the user and the provider's support services, as well as records of any actions taken by the provider or user as a result of the communications.
- 81. For each Instagram user, Meta collects and retains the content and other records described above, sometimes even after it is changed by the user (including usernames, phone numbers, email addresses, full names, privacy settings, email addresses, and profile bios and links).

### INFORMATION TO BE SEARCHED AND THINGS TO BE SEIZED

- 82. In this investigation, Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO has used various methods of communication including, but not limited to social media accounts, including the **Target Account**, to communicate about his (and his DTO's) drug trafficking activities and to also display evidence of such activity by way of photos, videos, messages, etc. In my training and experience, evidence of who was using Instagram and from where, and evidence related to criminal activity of the kind described above, may be found in the files and records described above. This evidence may establish the "who, what, why, when, where, and how" of the criminal conduct under investigation, thus enabling the United States to establish and prove each element or, alternatively, to exclude the innocent from further suspicion.
- 83. The stored communications and files connected to an Instagram account also may provide direct evidence of the offenses under investigation. Based on my training and experience, instant messages, photos, and videos are often created and used in furtherance of criminal activity, including to communicate and facilitate the offenses under investigation. In addition, the user's account activity, logs, stored electronic communications, and other data retained by Meta can indicate who has used or controlled

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the account. This "user attribution" evidence is analogous to the search for "indicia of occupancy" while executing a search warrant at a residence. For example, subscriber information, messaging logs, photos, and videos (and the data associated with the foregoing, such as date and time) may be evidence of who used or controlled the account at a relevant time. As an example, because every device has unique hardware and software identifiers, and because every device that connects to the Internet must use an IP address, IP address and device identifier information can help to identify which computers or other devices were used to access the account. Such information also allows investigators to understand the geographic and chronological context of access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation.

- 84. Account activity may also provide relevant insight into the account owner's state of mind as it relates to the offenses under investigation. For example, information on the account may indicate the owner's motive and intent to commit a crime (e.g., information indicating a plan to commit a crime), or consciousness of guilt (e.g., deleting account information in an effort to conceal evidence from law enforcement).
- 85. Other information connected to the use of Instagram may lead to the discovery of additional evidence. For example, the **Target Account** may reveal other communication services used in furtherance of the crimes under investigation or services used to move money between co-conspirators. In addition, information contained in the **Target Account** can lead to the identification of additional co-conspirators.
- 86. Therefore, Meta's servers are likely to contain stored electronic communications and information concerning subscribers and their use of Instagram. In my training and experience, such information may constitute evidence of the crimes under investigation including information that can be used to identify the account's user or users.

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### **CONCLUSION**

- 87. Based on the forgoing, I request that the Court issue the proposed search warrant.
- 88. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2703(g), this application and affidavit for a search warrant seeks authorization to permit Meta, and its agents and employees, to assist agents in the execution of this warrant. Once issued, the search warrant will be presented to Meta with direction that it identifies the **Target Account** described in Attachment A to this affidavit, as well as other subscriber and log records associated with the account, as set forth in Section I of Attachment B to this affidavit. The presence of a law enforcement officer is not required for the service or execution of this warrant. The government will execute this warrant by serving the warrant on Meta. Because the warrant will be served on Meta, who will then compile the requested records at a time convenient to it, reasonable cause exists to permit the execution of the requested warrant at any time in the day or night.
- 89. The search warrant will direct Meta to create an exact copy of the specified account and records.
- 90. I, and/or other law enforcement personnel will thereafter review the copy of the electronically stored data and identify from among that content those items that come within the items identified in Section II to Attachment B, for seizure.
- 91. Based on my experience and training, and the experience and training of other agents with whom I have communicated, it is necessary to review and seize a variety of communications that identify any users of the **Target Account** and communications sent or received in temporal proximity to incriminating communications that provide context to the incriminating communications.
- 92. This affidavit and application are being presented by reliable electronic means pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 4.1 and 41(d)(3).

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#### REQUEST FOR SEALING

93. I further request that the Court order that all papers in support of this application, including the affidavit and search warrant, be sealed until further order of the Court. These documents discuss an ongoing criminal investigation that is neither public nor known to all of the targets of the investigation. Accordingly, there is good cause to seal these documents because their premature disclosure may give targets an opportunity to flee/continue flight from prosecution, destroy or tamper with evidence, change patterns of behavior, notify confederates, or otherwise seriously jeopardize the investigation.

JACOB MOLINAR, Affiant

Special Agent

Drug Enforcement Administration

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement to the truth of the foregoing affidavit by telephone on 15th day of November 2023.

S. KATE VAUGHAN

United States Magistrate Judge

**ATTACHMENT A** 

#### Account to be Searched

This warrant applies to information associated with the Instagram account associated with Account Identifier 5314869686 (the **Target Account**) that is stored at premises owned, maintained, controlled, or operated by Meta Platforms, Inc., a company headquartered at 1601 Willow Road, Menlo Park, California.

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### ATTACHMENT B

### Particular Things to Be Seized

I. Section I - Information to be disclosed by Meta Platforms, Inc. ("Meta") for search:

To the extent that the information described in Attachment A is within the possession, custody, or control of Meta, regardless of whether such information is located within or outside of the United States, and including any messages, emails, records, files, logs, or other information that has been deleted but is still available to Meta, or has been preserved pursuant to a request made under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(f) on May 19, 2023, Meta is required to disclose the following information to the government for the **Target Account** or identifier listed in Attachment A:

- A. All business records and subscriber information, in any form kept, pertaining to the **Target Account**, including:
- 1. Identity and contact information (past and current), including full name, e-mail addresses, physical address, date of birth, phone numbers, gender, hometown, occupation, websites, and other personal identifiers;
- 2. All Instagram usernames (past and current) and the date and time each username was active, all associated Instagram and Facebook accounts (including those linked by machine cookie), and all records or other information about connections with Facebook, third-party websites, and mobile apps (whether active, expired, or removed);
- 3. Length of service (including start date), types of services utilized, purchases, and means and sources of payment (including any credit card or bank account number) and billing records;
- 4. Devices used to login to or access the **Target Account**, including all device identifiers, attributes, user agent strings, and information about networks and connections, cookies, operating systems, and apps and web browsers;
- 5. All advertising information, including advertising IDs, ad activity, and ad topic preferences;

ATTACHMENT B USAO No. 2023R00323

restricted, or denied a request to follow the Target Account;

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- 3. All contacts and related sync information; and
- 4. All associated logs and metadata;
- E. All records of searches performed by the **Target Account** from April 25, 2023, to present; and
- F. All location information, including location history, login activity, information geotags, and related metadata from April 25, 2023, to present.

## Meta is hereby ordered to disclose the above information to the government within 14 days of issuance of this warrant.

### II. Section II - Information to be seized by the government

All information described above in Section I that constitutes fruits, contraband, evidence, and instrumentalities of violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846 (drug trafficking, conspiracy) and 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (money laundering), those violations involving Damian PINA-RAYMUNDO and occurring after April 25, 2023, including, for the account or identifier listed on Attachment A, information pertaining to the following matters:

- (a) Evidence (i.e., photos, videos, stories, messages, comments, and other communications) showing the distribution of illegal drugs, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, the laundering of drug proceeds, and the possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking activities among, but not limited to, members and suspected members of the Jay Thrax DTO;
- (b) Evidence indicating how and when the account was accessed or used, to determine the geographic and chronological context of account access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation and to the account owner;
- (c) Evidence indicating the account owner's state of mind as it relates to the crimes under investigation;
- (d) The identity of the person(s) who created or used the user ID, including records that help reveal the whereabouts of such person(s); and
- (e) The identity of person(s) who communicated with the user ID about the sale, purchase, or distribution of controlled substances and/or related money laundering offenses and/or related firearms offenses, including records that help reveal their whereabouts.